

## The Messenger

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Volume 2013

Issue 1 *The Messenger*, 2013

Article 47

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2013

# Killed by Crossbow

Carter Staub

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### Recommended Citation

Staub, Carter (2013) "Killed by Crossbow," *The Messenger*: Vol. 2013: Iss. 1, Article 47.

Available at: <http://scholarship.richmond.edu/messenger/vol2013/iss1/47>

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## Killed by Crossbow // Carter Staub

In my living room,  
an elk head hangs  
on the white plaster wall,

curious,  
    a head without its body.

The 800 pounds of it on the other side,  
as if it had punched through  
to the attic, nestled next to Christmas  
lights and old picture frames.

He is arching his neck to the left.  
    Or rather—his right.  
And bugling.

—pretending to bugle.  
The taxidermist thinking—

Yes. Just like that.

My father sent me the picture  
holding the dead elk by the antlers.

There's still 500 pounds of it,  
in little packages in our freezer downstairs,  
    newly purchased to hold only elk—  
my father's name on each one.